

aliens, and if they all bring family members, which they would be eligible to do, it could be up to 3 million more, according to Numbers USA.

I greatly respect my friend and colleague, the Senator from Idaho, Mr. CRAIG, and I understand he has many cosponsors for his bill, but I firmly believe S. 359 has some major flaws and is not the way to remedy our problem with illegal immigration.

Even though there are certain criteria these illegal aliens must meet to qualify for temporary work status and eventual citizenship under this bill, it still rewards them by allowing them to stay in this country and work rather than penalizing them for breaking the law this is amnesty.

I also agree with my colleague from Texas, Senator CORNYN, the chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee, who said in Tuesday's Congress Daily when asked about the supplemental bill H.R. 1268, said that he did not want it to "be a magnet for other unrelated immigration proposals . . . regular order is the best way. . . ."

I agree with my colleague and think we should focus on the supplemental and debate immigration reform separately.

Furthermore, in section 2, paragraph 7, the AgJOBS bill defines a workday as "any day in which the individual is employed one or more hours in agriculture."

In order for an alien to apply for temporary work status, section 101, subsection A, subparagraph A states that the aliens "must establish that they have performed agricultural employment in the United States for at least 575 hours or 100 work days, whichever is less, during any 12 consecutive months. . . ."

So if a workday is defined as working at least 1 hour and the alien only has to work 100 work days in a year to qualify for temporary status under the AgJOBS bill, then illegal aliens only have to find some kind of agricultural work, and not necessarily be paid, for 100 hours, or merely 2 weeks, in a year in order to stay temporarily, while robbing Americans of these jobs.

An article from May 18, 2004, by Frank Gaffney, Jr., from the Washington Times entitled "Stealth Amnesty" states that once an illegal alien has established lawful temporary residency, "they can stay in the U.S. indefinitely while applying for permanent resident status."

"From there it is a matter of time before they can become citizens, so long as they work in the agricultural sector for 675 hours over the next 6 years."

Furthermore, in referring to the REAL ID Act, which was attached to the supplemental in the House, and I believe is true reform, another article from the week of April 6, appeared in the Washington Times stating:

. . . REAL ID is a bill that will strengthen homeland security, while Mr. CRAIG's AgJOBS bill will not.

One more article in the Washington Times, again by Frank Gaffney, Jr., from April 5 refers to the REAL ID Act as well as AgJOBS says:

The REAL ID legislation is aimed at denying future terrorists the ability exploited by the September 11, 2001, hijackers namely, to hold numerous valid driver's licenses, which they used to gain access to airports and their targeted aircraft.

It is no small irony, therefore, that the presence of the REAL ID provisions on the military's supplemental funding bill is being cited by the Senate parliamentarian as grounds for Senator Larry Craig, Idaho Republican, to try to attach to it legislation that would help eviscerate what passes for restrictions on illegal immigration.

The article continues:

The agriculture sector of the US economy needs cheap labor.

So let's legalize the presence in this country of anyone who can claim to have once worked for a little more than three months in that sector.

We must not reward lawbreakers especially while we have so many people coming to this country legally.

Last summer, I had an intern in my office from Rwanda. She fled during the genocide in 1994. She then came to this country as a refugee and became a legal permanent resident. It took her a year to get all her paperwork for becoming a legal resident and she will probably have to wade through similar bureaucracy to become a citizen as well. It frustrates me that people like her follow the rules and have to wait in the lines and wait for all the paperwork to be processed, while the illegal aliens can sneak into our country, and then, if they do apply for legal status, they slow down the process for those who came here legally. Not only does AgJOBS reward lawbreakers, it also robs many Americans of jobs they are willing to do.

Roy Beck from Numbers USA in his testimony on March 24, 2004, before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, quoted Alan Greenspan from February of last year as saying that America has an "oversupply of low-skilled, low-educated workers." In fact, according to Mr. Beck's testimony, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the number of unemployed Americans includes a majority of workers without a high school diploma.

Basically, we have a great supply of lower educated American workers without jobs, while ironically, the main purpose of the AgJOBS bill is to bring in low-educated, low-skilled foreign workers for jobs that these Americans are able and willing to fill.

A recent article from March 31 of this year in the San Diego Union-Tribune entitled "Importing a Peasant Class", written by Jerry Kammer, emphasizes this point by saying:

Nearly two decades after a sweeping amnesty for illegal immigrants [referring to the 1986 Amnesty] gave Gerardo Jimenez a ticket out of a San Diego County avocado orchard, he worries that the unyielding tide of low-wage workers from Latin America might

pull the economic rug out from under his feet.

Jimenez, who is from Mexico and supervises a drywall crew that worked all winter remodeling an office building three blocks from the White House says, "There are too many people coming."

The article goes on to say:

Jimenez's concern reflects an ambivalence about immigration among established immigrants in America.

It also challenges a key assumption of President Bush's proposal for a massive new guest-worker program: that the United States has a dearth of low-skill workers.

This is not true, we do not have a dearth of low-skill workers.

Not only does S. 359 keep able Americans from performing these jobs; it also drives down wages and stifles innovation and technology for these jobs.

The same San Diego Union-Tribune article I just quoted from continues saying:

In Atlanta, house painter Moises Milano says competition for jobs is so stiff among immigrants that house painters' wages have been flat since he came to the United States in the late 1980.

They're still \$9 an hour, he said, which would mean they've actually fallen significantly when adjusted for inflation.

And yet many more aspiring house painters arrive every day from Latin America.

Similar concerns can be heard throughout low-wage industries that Latino immigrants have come to dominate during recent decades, including housekeeping, landscaping, janitorial, chicken processing, meat packing, restaurants, hotels and fast food.

The article goes on to say:

Jimenez says his company competes for contracts against subcontractors using illegal workers who are prepared to work for less and who don't expect health insurance, overtime or other employment benefits.

"It puts pressure on his employer to cut labor costs, he said."

Jimenez explains why the migrants come and how it hurts current immigrants: "The migrants come because of hunger, because of necessity . . . but I would benefit if someone imposed order," he says. "My work would be worth more."

Jimenez says that he won't be able to compete with companies that hire illegal workers so that they can pay lower wages.

Not only are workers like Jimenez facing tough competition from companies who hire illegals, but a GAO study from 1988 found that other fields, such as cleaning office buildings, were also experiencing lower wages and more competition as a result of foreign workers.

Cleaning office buildings used to pay a decent wage, however as more foreign workers entered the field, wages, benefits and working conditions began to collapse.

Other labor-intensive fields, such as the construction and the meatpacking industry, have also experienced a drop in pay after an influx of foreign workers. By allowing employers to flood the